The Southern PATRIOT

Vol. 11. No. 3 Published by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. March, 1953

PANEL DISCUSSION AT COLUMBIA (SEE PP. 2, 3)

Senators Keep Rights Issue Alive

The odds against substantial civil-rights legislation being enacted by the 83d Congress are exceedingly great.

The Senate's 70-21 vote to retain rules permitting unlimited filibustering was decisive. The livest issue now is President Eisenhower's plan to appoint two additional commissioners for the District of Columbia—one of whom, reportedly, will be a Negro woman. This, it seems, is to be the chief implementation of his pledge to make the Capital "an honorable example for the nation."

But civil-rights bills are being introduced; liberal congressmen are continuing the fight. The little likelihood of immediate success should cause no citizen of good will to turn away from a body that could do so much to reapportion our democratic heritage. For, to quote Sen. Herbert Lehman:

"The dead hand of the past cannot be permitted indefinitely to choke the life out of democracy and to thwart not only the will of the majority, but what is fundamentally right and needful. The filibuster must go. The majority must reassert its right to act.

"In the end we will win. I am confident of that."

Others who are active in this cause include Senators Douglas, Humphreys, Ives, Magnuson, Morse, Murray, Neely, and Pastore.

The sound basis for their efforts can be found in two highly significant reports issued by the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare: "Employment and Economic Status of Negroes in the U. S." and "State and Municipal Fair Employment Legislation."

The first of these reveals the following statistics:

The average Negro worker earned about $1,300 in 1950—about 52 per cent as such as his white counterpart. The 1939 average was $364, or 38 per cent of the white total.

As of January, 1951, Negro workers had been on their current jobs an aver-

(Continued on Page 2.)

Lone Bigot Mars School's Record

A lone bigot, with rocks in his hand and rocks in his head, spoiled Louisiana State University's fine record of integration last month.

Two windows of the campus home of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel James were smashed the night of Feb. 2. The Jameses are the first Negroes to register in the LSU graduate school of music.

The university expressed its regret but took solace in that of its 6,000 students only one saw fit to do such a thing.

There was some frightened suggestion that the Jameses should move out of the hutment area which is provided for married students. But they would have none of it; nor would members of the faculty and student body who on the whole were deeply shamed by the incident.

Lionel James was recently discharged from the Army. Prior to enrollment at LSU, Mrs. James was on the staff of the SCEF.

Strictly Monkey Business As Usual

Two widely separated but similar incidents show how tenaciously and elaborately segregation can be defended as a public policy by naive or designing officials.

In Oklahoma City, Jan. 22, an NAACP delegation protested to the State Planning and Resource Board against a proposal to build a $750,000 recreation center at a state park for the exclusive use of whites.

Morton Harrison, head of the board, told them: "None of this money we plan to spend is state money, provided by the taxpayers. We plan to sell self-liquidating bonds to Eastern bond holders . . . If they found we planned to adopt a policy that is controversial in this state, and might cause trouble, I am sure we would not get the funds."

This argument is interesting: It is not hard to assume the state adopted the "self-liquidating bond" mode of financing to circumvent suits by Negro taxpayers—and now is appealing to those disadvantaged by this dodge to preserve it.

In Louisville, the transit company announced it was going to hire some new drivers. A delegation of ministers called on the company's president, Frederick Johnson, to ask that some Negroes be among those hired.

To quote the Louisville Defender of Jan. 21:

"One of the ministers asked Johnson if he thought it was morally right to deny Negroes jobs as drivers. Johnson replied he was concerned with running a

(Continued on Page 2.)

Sewanee Paying Price of Bias

The University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., continues to pay the price for its stubborn exclusion of Negroes from its theological school.

The Rev. James A. Pike, dean of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, declined last month to deliver a baccalaureate sermon or to accept an honorary degree from that institution in "white divinity".

Several months ago seven members of the faculty of the theological school resigned in protest of Jim Crow barriers.

SENATORS—Continued

(Continued from Page 1.)

age of 2.4 years, compared with an average of 3.5 years among white workers.

"Retirement" of nonwhite workers from the labor force was substantially higher than the average because of higher unemployment rates, a higher incidence of disability, and a "much greater concentration of Negroes in . . . jobs in which age and physical disability are likely to be greater handicaps to continued employment."

Life-expectancy figures give a male Negro child born in 1949 58.6 years of life; a white male 65.9 years. In 1920 Negro and white expectancy were 47.1 and 56.3, respectively.

These tables, plus others in this comprehensive report, give a good picture of the American Negro's transitional status. He has made gains, but still his share of our democratic bounty is niggling.

Much has yet to be done. And the second Senate report indicates one of the things that can be done.

The report analyzes the situations in states and municipalities having enforceable fair employment laws, those having voluntary laws, and those having none.

Among its conclusions:

"The laws and ordinances with enforcement provisions have been more effective in reducing discrimination in employment than those without such provisions. . .

"The integration of minority groups into American industry, resulting from FEP laws and ordinances, has been accomplished to the satisfaction of employers, workers, and labor unions. Although employers generally opposed the enactment of an enforceable FEP law, many of them have since expressed their belief that such legislation has not prevented them from hiring the most competent employees available, and has had positive beneficial effects.

'Segregation Can Never Be Equality'

"Integration in Education", excerpts from the address by Dr. Herman H. Long at the Columbia Youth Conference.

These past few years have taught us a valuable lesson, if we would but heed it: constructive and progressive change in the old system of race subordination is possible in the South. It can be accomplished with order, good will and in good faith; it can be accomplished in the best interests of the South itself by its leaders of integrity and honesty.

And let us make clear recognition of where we are this moment. We are no longer on the outside contemplating and debating the far-off possibility of integration in education; we are now in the process itself, the initial stages of the reality.

Equality Impossible Under Segregation

In a lesser way we have also learned from these years that it is practically impossible to provide equal educational opportunities for Negroes under segregation. In an area of limited resources for the development of education, the tax dollar does not stretch far enough to correct inequities in a separate system and, at the same time, meet the expanding demand for educational services which increasing school enrollments require. We can just barely manage to maintain services at present levels and make enough improvements to prevent a depreciation in the quality of the educational program.

Negro schools have improved and school boards throughout the South are to be commended for making these direly needed appropriations. At the same time, white schools have been improved out of necessity, and what has happened is the continued existence of educational disparities between white and Negro citizens; and in some instances the disparities have even increased.

The adjoining picture appearing in January's **Patriot** aroused considerable comment. One reader wrote that, as he sees it, the Jim Crow spigots are for water, whereas the bottled drink is made available to both races through the same sliding door. Hence, haven't we overstated our case of "Coke"?

His observations are perfectly correct. We should, perhaps, have made that more clear. But we think it exceedingly strange that a soft-drink firm should design its dispensers in such a manner. Its solicitude, beyond the call of duty, in offering H2O as well as its product to the public thirst seems to be matched by a desire to enforce segregation upon that same public.

KENTUCKY DELEGATES 'CAUCUS'

What we have, then, is the continuance of a never-ending status of disproportionate sharing in educational opportunities under segregation.

Even such a conservative body as the committee on graduate and professional training for the Southern Regional Education Board has acceded that inequalities facing Negroes in the higher levels of the educational enterprise cannot be eliminated under segregation. And if that be true for this relatively small part of the educational enterprise, certainly it is true for the larger area of services covered by the common schools.

I suggest here that we make clear recognition of this, that we cease to cultivate this approach as a solution. It is a dead-end of possibility for equality.

MONKEY BUSINESS

(Continued from Page 1.)

bus company, not with morals and philosophy.

"Johnson explained that personally he was unbiased. He said he follows the policy of the company of hiring people best suited and best fitted for the job.

"However, he gave the group no assurances that Negroes would be given consideration for bus-driver jobs."

The democratic creed and 15c will take you anyplace in Louisville—and might even get you a ride on an Oklahoma merry-go-round.

On Oct. 5 Birmingham police killed a Negro prisoner "attempting to escape" to bring the number of Negroes killed this year by Alabama law officers to 12. Of these, seven were slain in the Birmingham area.

Since 1948 Alabama police have killed 64 Negroes.

In view of this, the Birmingham interracial Committee quite properly reported last month that the city's greatest need was for Negro police officers.

Delegates Give Impressions of Youth Parley Conference

The following is a compilation of comments from delegates to the interracial youth conference recently held in Columbia, S. C. February's Patriot was devoted to a report on the event. Reprints of an article describing it in The Nation *of Jan. 17 can also be had by writing the SCEF, 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, La.*

* * *

To the editor:

First I want to tell you that I was glad that I went to the conference in South Carolina. I believe that I benefitted tremendously from it, and I feel that it did accomplish a great deal. . .

I believe that it was a mistake to call the conference a "youth" meeting. It was well known that the adults at the conference both supervised and participated in the proceedings of the conference. It seems to me that this is an undercover method which should be avoided if possible. In addition, I believe that a Southwide conference of both young people and adults would have more impact, so to speak, with the general public. I think that most adults in the South upon hearing of such a "youth" conference immeditely picture a group of young liberals who will change their ideas when they grow older and "wiser."

LEONARD WEEKS
Denton, Texas

* * *

To the Editor:

I am still elated over the accomplishments and effects of the Columbia Youth Conference. I believe that the conference in the future will be quite successful.

IVORY L. LYONS
Atlanta, Ga.

* * *

To the Editor:

We made it back to Oklahoma hale and hearty . . . Needless to say, our group is straining at the reins to start doing something more constructive and creative in this area. . .

ED WHITE
Wesley Foundation
Oklahoma A. & M.

* * *

To the Editor:

One of the finest ideas I heard of at the conference was the suggestion of a newsletter. Whatever we do will be all too little, of course, but such a project should help to continue the inspiration of the conference and offer a basis for exchange of constructive ideas. . .

DAN BYRON DOBBS
Fayetteville, Ark.

DR. LONG ANSWERS A QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR

To the Editor:

You asked for comments on the conference. The one thing I have said most about it to my friends is that never, at any conference of that sort, had I seen so high a calibre of participants . . . I'm still living on the manna of the people and the discussions, and as far as I'm concerned, the whole thing was wonderful!

S. MILLER WILLIAMS
Lake Charles, La.

* * *

To the Editor:

Although Berea does have Negro students, this conference was especially meaningful to me because it was the first time in my life that I have had the chance to get to know so many Negro youth of my own age. The conference certainly provided contact, which all of the commissions said was necessary for solving the problems of segregation. . .

One main thing though is that I wish the conference had been better publicized with regard to its purposes and what specifically it might accomplish. I'm sure that those of us who chose to attend realized that participating in an interracial conference in South Carolina would in itself be a significant experience, but we would have been more confident and would also have been able to get more people to come with us if there had been some statement of what the outcome of the conference might be or just what the conference planners hoped that we might accomplish. . .

All in all, the conference was one of the significant experiences of my life. Many other delegates are probably saying that too.

PATRICIA SMATHERS
Berea, Ky.

* * *

To the Editor:

Hope you were as pleased with the conference as I was. I consider it to have been a constructive and positive effort to deal with the problem.

BEN BINKLEY
Emory University, Ga.

* * *

To the Editor:

Enclosed please find copies of letters recently received from a university instructor and a local clergyman . . . Many telephone calls and personal contacts show a high admiration for the splendid address by Dr. Marshall. I have mailed out about 100 copies of his talk.

FRANK W. SPENCER
Savannah, Ga.

* * *

To the Editor:

Viewing the meeting in its entirety, I say that the conference was highly successful. I suggest that for future meetings a committee be formed to receive commision reports, study them and make corrections or additions with the consent of the commission reporter, before the reports are presented before the general delegation. . .

SARA R. KEBE
Orangeburg, S. C.